

Michigan Duck Rescue

and

Sanctuary



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Testimony opposing: HB 4251

Committee: House Criminal Justice

Date: March 24, 2015

On behalf of the Michigan Duck Rescue and Sanctuary, and our many supporters and followers, we wish to strongly oppose the passage of HB 4251.

All too often, we receive calls from around the country to assist in the placement of unwanted ducks. The standard mantra is, 'They were just too cute not to buy one, but they wouldn't just let us buy one, we had to buy several, and now they're just too big, they poop all over and we are not allowed to keep them in our neighborhood after all', etc., etc. Buying a pet, even just a little duckling, on an impulse purchase, almost always never works out well. But it is less guilty for an owner to just 'toss' them in the nearest pond or park with the assumption that they will just survive fine on their own, they will not, they never do.

We work with many agencies, humane societies, animal controls in many counties and other states and this is all that we see and hear. A majority of the abandonments don't even get registered statistically, because they are often just let loose into the wild. The numbers that we alone deal with are staggering, and to now allow them to be colored for an even larger retail distribution, will be even more unconscionable.

What would be a wonderful piece of legislation for passage, and we would support it wholeheartedly, would be for retail stores to have a greater responsibility in how they sell and offer their live poultry to the passing public. Accountability should be mandated. We have had MANY stories where owners have said that they were told that the ducks will 'just fly away' when the time comes, but they never do.

Alas, it is not in the natural order of creation to change the design of God's creatures for one's own amusement. We strongly believe that changing their appearance will lead to a 'lesser' respect of these creatures, since they will become more 'play like' and can give a less real appearance of a live animal. These animals are not toys, and to artificially change their natural appearance just to enhance retail profit margins, is in itself, reprehensible. Absolutely no good can come from this unacceptable malfeasance.

Please consider who will suffer the greatest harm from the repeal. Thank you sincerely for your time and consideration.

Matthew Lyson

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